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Question: 1

The authors of both passages would likely agree with which of the following statements?

- A. Social media gives companies the opportunity to communicate with potential customers on an individual level.
- B. Social media has made advertising easier for small businesses.
- C. Social media has proven to be an unprecedented challenge for small businesses.
- D. Social media gives small businesses the opportunity to reach customers around the world without cost.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Both authors mention that social media allows companies to interact with individuals.

Although one sees that as more positive than the other does, the two would be likely to agree that the statement is true. Passage 1 indicates that social media has aided in advertising, while Passage 2 indicates that it has made advertising more challenging, so answer choice B is incorrect. The author of Passage 2 would likely agree with answer choice C, but the author of Passage 1 would likely not. Though Passage 1 indicates that advertising on social media costs less than traditional advertising, neither passage states that it is free, so answer choice D is incorrect.

Question: 2

Consider the following passage:

The Amazon rainforest is one of the most important ecosystems in the world.

However, it is slowly being destroyed. Areas of the rainforest are being cleared for farms and roads, and much of the wood is also being harvested and sold. There are several compelling reasons to protect this are

a. First, a significant number of pharmaceuticals are made from plants that have been discovered in the rainforest, and it's quite possible there are still important plants that have not yet been discovered. Secondly, the rainforest provides a significant portion of the world's oxygen and also absorbs great amounts of carbon dioxide. Without rainforests, global warming could accelerate.

What is the main purpose of this passage?

- A. To present the major reasons why the Amazon rainforest is being destroyed
- B. To explain why the Amazon rainforest should be protected
- C. To argue that rainforest destruction is a major cause of global warming
- D. To discuss how the rainforest has helped in the development of medications

Answer: B

Explanation:

The concepts in answer choices A and C are mentioned only briefly. The idea shown in choice D is discussed, but it is one of two subpoints that serve the main purpose, which is to discuss why the Amazon rainforest is a valuable area that should be protected.

Question: 3

Consider the following passage:

Howard Gardner was a psychologist best known for developing the theory of multiple intelligences. Basically, the theory states that the idea of general intelligence or overall intelligence is somewhat inaccurate. The concept is misleading because people often show intelligence in different areas. He argued that there are actually different types of intelligence. One of these types is interpersonal intelligence, which allows people to relate and interact well with others. People with intrapersonal intelligence, on the other hand, are in touch with their own feelings. They enjoy thinking about theories and developing their own thoughts and ideas. People with linguistic intelligence learn best by taking notes and reading textbooks. They often excel in traditional academic environments, as many academic subjects stress these types of activities. The other proposed types of intelligence are kinesthetic, musical, spatial, and logical or mathematical. What can be concluded from this passage?

- A. Gardner believed that linguistic intelligence was the most desirable type to have.
- B. Most people who have a high level of intrapersonal intelligence do well in school.
- C. People who have a high level of interpersonal intelligence work well in groups.
- D. People who have mathematical intelligence would do the best on a standard IQ test.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Answer choice A is not a logical conclusion because there is no indication that Gardner ranked the intelligences in any way. Answer choice B cannot be concluded from the passage, as there is no mention of the value placed on intrapersonal intelligences in a traditional academic environment. No IQ tests (answer choice D) are mentioned at all, so we cannot conclude anything about them based on this passage. Answer choice C is the correct choice. Those with interpersonal intelligence interact well with others, so it is reasonable to assume they would perform well in a group setting.

Question: 4

Consider the following passage:

To reduce the amount of plastic and other materials that are discarded, zero waste grocery stores are opening across the nation. These encourage the use of reusable containers to cut down on the amount consumers are throwing away. Customers bring their own containers to fill, purchasing anything from dried fruit to baking mix to honey to liquid soap. By putting the products directly in their own containers,

consumers cut down on the copious amounts of foam trays, plastic wrap, clamshells, and even grocery bags that are used once and then trashed. However, zero waste of packaging does not mean zero waste overall. Without the preserving effects of plastic or tin cans, food expires more quickly and must be disposed of if not sold in time. Stores must make judicious decisions in their effort to truly be zero waste. As used in the last sentence, "judicious" most nearly means

- A. Judgmental
- B. Wise
- C. Slow
- D. New

Answer: B

Explanation:

The word judicious has to do with sound judgment. This does not mean being judgmental (A) but making wise decisions. Though being judicious make take time, it cannot be equated with "slow" (C), and it does not mean "new" (D).

Question: 5

Consider the following passage:

One of the earliest known fabrics is cotton. Remnants have been found dating to 6,000 BC in South America, and use of cotton in the Middle East and India also dates back millennia. Cotton reached Europe later but quickly became a popular trade item. The industrial revolutions of the US and Britain, particularly Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin, allowed production of cloth to increase enormously. In the southern US, plantations produced mass quantities of cotton, relying heavily on slave labor to grow and harvest the crops. Cotton tended to be "king" in the south, even after the Civil War, until boll weevils were introduced in the late nineteenth century. These insects wreaked havoc on cotton fields for decades until pesticides and other control methods were developed to manage the problem. Cotton continues to be manufactured in huge quantities today, in both genetically modified and organic forms.

Which of the following resulted from the invention of the cotton gin?

- A. It slowed the production of cotton.
- B. It allowed the US to produce cloth independently.
- C. It solved the problem of the boll weevil.
- D. It aided increased production of cotton.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The fourth sentence of the selection states that the cotton gin led to increased production of cotton. Answer choice A states the opposite. There is no mention of US independence (B) in the passage. While the passage mentions finding solutions to the boll weevil problem (D), these solutions did not result from the invention of the cotton gin.

Question: 6

Consider the following passage:

The US dollar has been in use since before the United States was a sovereign nation. Originally, the Continental Congress issued "Continental" in 1775, paper money in various denominations of dollars. Skyrocketing inflation just a few years later led to the collapse of this currency, but in 1792 Congress established the United States Mint to create coinage. Both gold and silver dollars and fractions of dollars were minted. Paper money was based on a gold standard, meaning that a bill was worth a specific amount of gold. This gold standard was temporarily dropped during America's participation in World War I, and permanently dropped during the Great Depression.

As used in the first sentence, "sovereign" most nearly means

- A. Powerful
- B. Independent
- C. A British coin
- D. Possessing a gold standard

Answer: B

Explanation:

Sovereign can have several different meanings, but in the phrase sovereign nation, it means "independent." In some contexts, sovereign can mean "having supreme power" (A), and as a noun, sovereign can refer to a type of British coin (C). Neither of these definitions make sense in this context. While the passage mentions a gold standard (D), "possessing a gold standard" is not a possible meaning of sovereign.

Question: 7

Consider the following passage:

Being online comes with very real risks, as hackers can steal personal and financial information. Users can take several precautions to minimize risk, such as purchasing a good anti-virus and anti-spyware program. Passwords themselves are also important, but it is vital that passwords be secure. First, a password should be something easy to remember, but it shouldn't be something others can guess easily. A user's own name, phone number, and street name are all bad choices, as people could easily find this information. Longer passwords are more secure, and those that use a mixture of uppercase and lowercase letters and a combination of letters and numbers are more secure than those that don't. Finally, passwords should be changed often. This can make remembering them more difficult, but the added

security is worth the extra effort.
What is the main purpose of this passage?

- A. To discuss the major risks associated with internet use
- B. To talk about the importance of anti-virus programs
- C. To outline important considerations for passwords
- D. To discuss why certain types of passwords shouldn't be used

Answer: C

Explanation:

The concepts in answer choices A and B are touched upon only very briefly. Examples of passwords that shouldn't be used (D) are discussed, but only as part of the larger discussion in the passage that aims to outline important considerations related to passwords.

Question: 8

Consider the following passage:

When people are conducting research, particularly historical research, they usually rely on primary and secondary sources. Primary sources are the more direct type of information. A primary source is an account of an event that is produced by individuals who were actually present. Some examples of primary sources include a person's diary entry about an event, an interview with an eyewitness, a newspaper article, or a transcribed conversation. Secondary sources are pieces of information that are constructed through the use of other primary sources. Often, the person who creates the secondary source was not actually present at the event. Secondary sources could include books, research papers, and magazine articles.

Which of the following is NOT a secondary source?

- A. Research paper
- B. Book
- C. Eyewitness interview
- D. Magazine article

Answer: C

Explanation:

The final sentence of the passage lists potential secondary sources: books, research papers, and magazine articles (choices B, A, and D, respectively). Eyewitness interviews (C) are listed as an example of a primary source.

Question: 9

Consider the following passage:

Many people fail to realize just how crucial getting a good night's sleep actually is. It is usually suggested that adults should get about seven hours of sleep every night

and that younger children should get even more. Sleep is believed to improve memory. This is one reason why it is always preferable to sleep the night before a test rather than stay up for the entire night to review the information. Similarly, sleep also improves concentration and mental alertness. Those who get sufficient sleep are able to concentrate on work tasks better and also react faster when they are driving a car, for example. Finally, people who get enough sleep have better immunity against illness. The reason for this is not fully understood, but researchers believe that an increase in the production of growth hormone and melatonin plays a role.

What is the main purpose of this passage?

- A. To talk about the benefits of sleep
- B. To discuss how much sleep people should get
- C. To identify which hormones can boost immunity
- D. To present strategies for improving memory and concentration

Answer: A

Explanation:

Answer choices B and C refer to topics that are mentioned only briefly. Memory and concentration are mentioned, but strategies for improving them (D) are not. The passage focuses mainly on discussing some of the major benefits of sleep, so that is the main purpose of the passage.

Question: 10

Consider the following passage:

Feudalism was a social system that existed in parts of Europe during the Middle Ages. Essentially, there were several different classes within a feudal society. The king controlled all of the land in his jurisdiction and divided it among a few barons. The barons then divided up their portions among knights. It was then split up again and distributed to serfs, the lowest members of feudal society. They were permitted to farm small sections of land, but had to give a portion of their food to the knights in exchange for this privilege. They also had to give free labor to the knights in exchange for using their land. Serfs had very few rights; they couldn't even leave their land without permission from the knight who controlled it. The system of feudalism ended when money began to be used as currency instead of land.

What can be concluded from this passage?

- A. Serfs were in a better position when the economy changed to a money-based one.
- B. There were more knights in a typical feudal society than barons.
- C. The knights did not have to do anything for the barons in exchange for land.
- D. Most feudal societies in Europe were ruled by more than one king.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Answer choice B is the logical conclusion. The passage states, "The king controlled all of the land in his jurisdiction. He divided this among a few barons. The barons then divided up the land they were given and distributed it to knights." If the barons divided up their lands, it would stand to reason that each baron would distribute his land more than one knight. Therefore, there would have to be more knights than barons. Choice A seems to be suggested by the last sentence and could be a point made later in the work, after the passage. But it cannot be concluded from this passage alone. Whether knights had any duties to perform in exchange for their land (C) is never made clear. Choice D directly contradicts the passage.

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